

# h REFUGE *of* HOPE MINISTRIES

## Because of *You*, THIS ARMY VETERAN WAS ABLE TO FORGIVE

Walter Ackerman Jr. served our country for 6 years and was deployed to Iraq. In 2011 he was honorably discharged. **“I thought I could just resume my civilian life,”** Walter explained. **“But it wasn’t that easy, actually nothing was easy at all. I thought I had everything under control but soon realized my life was spinning out of control!”**

By 2013 Walter had developed some bad habits with the wrong people. He was addicted to crack cocaine. That was the same drug that took everything from his parents, including his siblings, while he was in basic training. The same drug he swore he would never try. How on earth did he allow this to happen to him?

No matter what he tried life just kept getting worse for him. His father, clean and sober now for many years, tried to help him. **“I was grateful to my dad for trying to help, but until I was ready to help myself, there was nothing he could do. But the piece of advice I did follow was to go to Refuge of Hope for help. That was April of this year and everything started to change for the better!”**

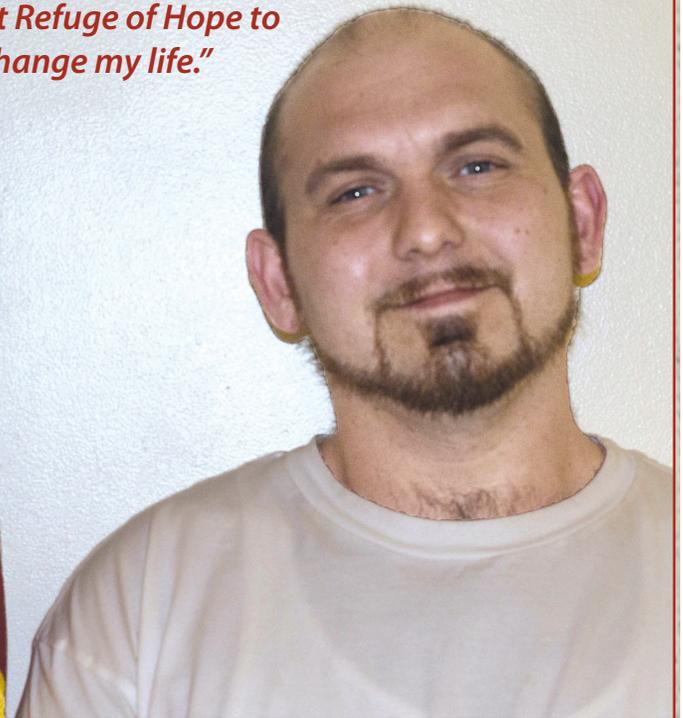
Walter will tell you that he put all of his efforts into his relationship with God. Daily reading scripture and praying, Walter soon found a few weeks of being clean had turned into a couple months.

**“Putting God back in my life made all the difference!** Knowing I could talk with Scott Schnyders, director of the men’s shelter, about God and how He was helping me gave me even more support. Because so many people were praying, including me, things became easier and started to all come together,” Walter said.

Walter started back to work in construction and helped out



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at Refuge of Hope as a Resident Assistant during the evenings and weekends. The VA has assisted him with a hotel room and he is next on the list for his own apartment. When he is ready to officially move into his new housing, Scott Schnyders will help him with donated furniture from the mission.

According to Walter, the months he spent at Refuge of Hope gave him the time he needed to focus and heal. **“I was able to plan my life, reconnect with my family, and learn how much God cares for me,”** he said. **“But most of all it gave me the time I needed to forgive myself. That was the hardest thing to do and yet the most impactful thing that helped me! Thank you for giving me the time at Refuge of Hope to change my life.”**

# CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE!



"Here is the first rendering of our new building! God continues to bless Refuge of Hope and if He is willing, we will begin construction of our new facility in the spring of next year. Only a few months ago that seemed unlikely but we know, and have seen, that with God all things are indeed possible," said Duane Wykoff, Refuge of Hope's CEO.

We have been working since February during what is called the "silent phase" of our capital campaign. This phase consisted of recruiting co-chairmen for our steering committee, assembling various sub-committees, and beginning the work of raising awareness and preliminary funding for the project.

Now we are almost ready to launch the public phase! This is the time where all of our loyal and faithful donors have an opportunity to help us cross the finish line.

If you want to learn more information today, call Duane Wykoff at 234-360-0337.



*A higher standard.  
A higher purpose.*



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# You helped Anthony and Joy feed their family!

Meet Joy, Anthony, Skylar, and Jaxson. They have been coming to Refuge of Hope for several months now. Anthony briefly stayed with us in the men's shelter last winter, while Joy and Skylar were staying at a local women's shelter. Since the birth of their son, they now are living all together but times are still difficult. Joy and Anthony share a couple of their thoughts with you about how much Refuge of Hope has meant to them and their growing family.

During this past summer Joy was struggling with a challenging pregnancy. **"It was comforting to know when I was not feeling well, we**



**could come to Refuge of Hope for a hot meal. Skylar loves the food and everyone is so nice to him. They make us feel just like part of a really big family,"** said Joy.

**"The extra food on the give-away shelf helps us a lot! Skylar loves the peanut butter and jelly. When I stayed here the night supervisors were awesome! Now, I stay in touch with the staff by coming to the meals,"** Anthony shared.

Thanks to you, Joy, Anthony, Skylar, and Jaxson can look forward to a brighter future!

*"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go visit you?' Whenever you did it to the least of these brothers and sisters, you did for me."*

- Matthew 25:37-40

**Yes! I want my gift today to make a difference in the lives of men like Walter, and families like Anthony & Joy! I know by providing meals, shelter, and Hope to those in need they will have an opportunity to change their lives.**

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*Thank you on behalf of those who benefit from the work of Refuge of Hope Ministries made possible through your generous gift. Tax deductible information will be mailed with your donation receipt.*



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